

Amendments To The Abstract:

The below Abstract will replace all prior versions of the Abstract:

Abstract

A computer system and a method is disclosed for determining a travel scheme [minimizing] which minimizes travel costs for an organization, where the organization expects to purchase travel trips for a plurality of travelers for a plurality of travel links. [Each travel link comprises a travel origin and a travel destination, and is served by at least one of the carriers. The system comprises a data input device for receiving travel information relating to the carriers and the links, a data storage device for storing the travel information received by the data input device, a processor, and a data output device.] From the travel information, the system constructs an objective function representing a travel cost to the organization to purchase travel trips for the plurality of travelers for the plurality of predetermined links, and a set of constraints comprising restrictions relating to the objective function. The constraints are applied to the objective function to determine a solution of the objective function that satisfies the constraints and that minimizes the travel costs of the organization, and a data output device then generates a report representative of the solution. [The travel information comprises travel cost information for each link for each carrier serving the link, demand and supply information pertaining to a projected demand for each link and a projected supply for each carrier, and carrier goal information pertaining to any predetermined goal the organization may have with respect to any of the carriers.]